



# Safety Alert 06-04

## POV Accident on I-44



20 March 2006

On 18 March, a Soldier was seriously injured while driving on I-44 near Jerome, MO. The Soldier's car skidded off the interstate and collided with a guardrail. Preliminary reports state that he was not wearing a seatbelt and alcohol was involved. Currently, the Soldier is recovering from surgery and his condition is improving. This accident does serve as a reminder of the dangers associated with operating motor vehicles, especially while under the influence of alcohol and when not using seatbelts. POV accidents continue to be the leading accidental killer of Army and Fort Leonard Wood personnel.

To prevent POV accidents, all personnel must diligently follow the basic rules for safe driving:

- Don't drink and drive
- Don't drive too fast for road and environmental conditions
- Don't drive when drowsy
- Don't allow your attention to be distracted from your driving
- Always wear a seat belt, and make sure all passengers also do so
- Always be alert and maintain situational awareness
- Always watch out for the other guy, other drivers who may do something dangerous
- If operating a motorcycle, be sure you have completed a motorcycle safety course, are wearing all required safety clothing and equipment, and are especially careful to follow the rules for safe operation
- Above all, practice personal risk management and drive responsibly

Leaders must:

- Practice composite risk management: Know their personnel and help them to identify potential hazards associated with their off-duty plans and to establish personal accident prevention measures
  - Stress personal responsibility and safety awareness
  - Hold personnel accountable who violate vehicle operation regulations
  - Know which of their personnel are high-risk drivers and focus special attention on helping them avoid POV accidents
  - Know which of their personnel operate motorcycles, ensure that they have completed motorcycle safety training, ensure that they know all safety clothing and equipment that they are required to wear, and hold them accountable for violations of these requirements
  - Focus special attention on personnel who have recently returned from OEF or OIF
  - Ensure that personnel complete the ASMIS-1 POV risk assessment, prior to pass, leave, TDY, or PCS
  - Ensure that military personnel get their POVs inspected for safety hazards prior to departing for long road trips and encourage civilian personnel to do the

**MANSCEN SAFETY OFFICE**